



PROJECT MANAGER POSITION AT EL VERDE FIELD STATION UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, RIO PIEDRAS

Position: Luquillo Forest Dynamics Plot (LFDP) Project Manager

Start date: November 2023, exact dates TBD.

Position Description: The Department of Environmental Studies of the University of Puerto Rico is hiring a Project Manager to assist scientists conducting research in the Luquillo Forest Dynamics Plot, located at El Verde Field Station in Puerto Rico. The LFDP is part of a network of large forest plots coordinated by [ForestGEO](#) and a keystone project of the Luquillo Long-Term Ecological Research Program, or [LUQ-LTER](#). The Luquillo site entered the [LTER program](#) in 1988 to study the long-term effects of natural and human disturbances on tropical forests and streams in the Luquillo Experimental Forest. The LFDP consists of a 16-hectare gridded forest plot where all saplings, shrubs, and trees are identified, mapped and measured every five years to address questions of forest diversity and management. Seedling censuses in small plots dispersed throughout the plot are conducted annually. The LFDP and surrounding plots provide a platform for a variety of soil, water, vegetation, and organismal studies that integrate with the larger LUQ-LTER research framework.

The Project Manager will work collaboratively with long-term technicians and the LUQ-LTER Scientific Research, Program, and Data Managers and will be guided by the Lead Principal Investigator and other senior personnel. Responsibilities are centered around daily coordination of research associated with the LFDP, including data collection and management. The Project Manager will recruit, train and supervise field crews for census work, beginning with the 2024 seedling census. Logistics related to scheduling, field housing, and transportation make up a significant portion of this effort. The Project Manager will be expected to maintain LFDP datasets as well as plot infrastructure and equipment and may be asked to conduct statistical analyses and summary presentations of data arising from research activities. Students and visiting researchers may also rely on the Manager's assistance for coordinating field activities. A willingness to respond to crew or visitor needs outside of normal work hours, and flexibility to occasionally work weekends or holidays, are essential.

Qualifications: We seek a bilingual and motivated individual with a Master of Science in Biology, Ecology, Forestry, or Environmental Science, an interest in tropical plant ecology and taxonomy, and the ability to collect data in a difficult forest environment. We will consider well-qualified, experienced candidates with a Bachelor of Science.

Additional requirements include 1) prior experience with ecological fieldwork in tropical ecosystems and under strenuous physical conditions, 2) experience supervising fieldwork and data

entry by technicians, interns or students, 3) strong quantitative and spatial skills, ideally including proficiency in data management and statistical analysis using R programming as well as mapping and management of geospatial data in GIS, 4) the ability to maintain a high level of independence and motivation in a frequently challenging work environment, 5) knowledge of the common tree species in El Yunque National Forest or demonstrated plant identification skills and willingness to self-teach, 6) the ability to communicate effectively in both English and Spanish, 7) A reliable personal vehicle for daily transportation to El Verde Field Station. The ideal candidate will possess knowledge of ecology and forestry and the ability to assist with manuscript preparation.

Compensation: The LFDP Project Manager position is a full-time, contractual Assistant Investigator position based at El Verde Field Station in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. Compensation is commensurate with experience and includes a benefits package with health care.

To Apply: Interested applicants should submit the following documents compiled in a single PDF to Monique Picón at monique.picon@upr.edu: 1) a letter of intent including a statement of career goals, 2) curriculum vitae, 3) copy of all university transcripts, and 4) contact information for three references. Please also include your name and the name of the position in the subject line, e.g., "Monique Picón – LFDP Project Manager Position." Review of applications will begin on **September 15, 2023** and continue until positions are filled. Please email any further inquiries to Monique Picón at monique.picon@upr.edu or mopicon@gmail.com.